

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A semiconductor integrated circuit capable of protection from card hacking, by which erroneous actions are actively induced by irradiation with light and protected secret information is illegitimately acquired, is to be provided. Photodetectors, configured by a standard logic process, hardly distinguishable from other circuits and consumes very little standby power, are mounted on a semiconductor integrated circuit, such as an IC card microcomputer. Each of the photodetectors, for instance, has a configuration in which a first state is held in a static latch by its initializing action and reversal to a second state takes place when semiconductor elements in a state of non-conduction, constituting the static latch of the first state, is irradiated with light. A plurality of photodetectors are arranged in a memory cell array. By incorporating the static latch type photodetector into the memory array, they can be arranged inconspicuously. Reverse engineering by irradiation with light can be effectively prevented.